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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, April 7, 2014, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2014

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House. There are many important issues to be considered, with multiple interests and priorities dividing the House in its deliberations.

May the inertia of habit that has solidified various blocs of opinion be stirred to productive action, and grant that a new light might shine on creative solutions to longstanding and vexing disagreement.

The benefit of so many Americans depends on the creativity and intentions of those who serve here. May their hopes and prayers for constructive legislation be satisfied to Your divine grace and the goodwill of all in this Chamber.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches.

RECOGNIZING BELL STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL

(Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bell Street Middle School in Clinton, South Carolina, for the outstanding accomplishment of winning their 12th consecutive Science Olympiad State Championship.

You hear a lot about sports teams, but this is a science olympiad team. Each year, the South Carolina Science Olympiad competition brings together schools from all over the State to compete in science-related contests, with the goal of changing the way science is perceived and taught.

Bell Street Middle School has repeatedly excelled in the competition, lead-

ing the State for over a decade. This year, Bell Street finished first in 12 of the 20 individual competitions in the State tournament.

Last year, the school placed in the top six in the Dynamic Planet competition in the Science Olympiad national tournament.

We are very proud of these students and what they accomplished. I am confident they will go on to represent South Carolina well in the national competition.

I want to thank the students, teachers, the parents, and the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make the dream a reality.

I wish the team great success in the upcoming national competition and continued success in the State tournament for years to come.

RAISE THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the urgent need to raise the Federal minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour.

Since 2009, we have had the same \$7.25 per hour minimum wage. Over the last 5 years, inflation rates caused the value of that to decrease by an average of 13.6 cents per year.

Today, \$7.25 is worth 9 percent less than it was in 2009. For someone working full time on minimum wage, this is like getting a \$26 decrease in pay. Meanwhile, the cost of everyday necessities continues to increase. Between

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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